

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A dielectric composition comprising a mixture of :

a ceramic composition containing  $\text{Ba}_a\text{RE}_b\text{Ti}_c\text{O}_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

a glass composition comprising  $\text{SiO}_2$ , a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% by weight with respect to the glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$ , said glass composition substantially free from boron, and

a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition.

2. (previously amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the metal oxide in the dielectric composition is an oxide of a metal chosen from the group consisting of magnesium, zinc, copper, manganese, cobalt, iron, nickel, erbium, holmium, indium, dysprosium, tungsten and yttrium.

3. (previously amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the further metal oxide in the glass composition is  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ .

4. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the glass composition essentially consists of 50-80% by weight of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 5-25% by weight of  $\text{MgO}$ , and 10-25% by weight of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , ~~wherein said composition is substantially free from boron.~~

5. (canceled)

Cy 6. (previously amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bivalent metal oxide in the glass composition is  $\text{ZnO}$ , and the further metal oxide is  $\text{Ti}_2\text{O}$ .

7. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the glass composition is present in an amount of 3 to less than about 5% by weight with respect to the ceramic composition.

8. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic multilayer element comprising the steps of;

manufacturing a multilayer stack comprising a first ceramic foil, a first electrode comprising  $\text{Cu}$ , a second ceramic foil, and a second electrode comprising  $\text{Cu}$ , which ceramic foils are manufactured from a dielectric composition comprising a ceramic composition and a glass composition comprising  $\text{SiO}_2$ , which ceramic composition contains  $\text{Ba}_a\text{RE}_b\text{Ti}_c\text{O}_3$ , wherein  $\text{RE}$  represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , the ceramic

composition being free from lead and bismuth; and

sintering the multilayer stack,

wherein the glass composition is substantially free from boron contains a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% weight with respect to the glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from a group consisting of Li<sub>2</sub>O and TiO<sub>2</sub>,

the dielectric composition further contains a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition, and

the multilayer stack is sintered at a temperature of between 900 and 1080 °C and in an atmosphere which is non-oxidizing for Cu.

9. (currently amended) An electronic device comprising a first dielectric ceramic layer, a first electrode comprising Cu, and a second electrode, wherein the first dielectric ceramic layer is a sintered body comprising;

a ceramic composition containing Ba<sub>a</sub>RE<sub>b</sub>Ti<sub>c</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

a glass composition substantially free from boron comprising SiO<sub>2</sub>, a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% by weight with respect to the glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of Li<sub>2</sub>O and TiO<sub>2</sub>, and

a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition.

10. (previously amended) An electronic device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the first dielectric ceramic layer is present as a substrate.

C1 11. (currently amended) A dielectric composition comprising a mixture of :

a ceramic composition containing  $Ba_aRE_bTi_cO_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

a glass composition, ~~essentially~~ substantially free from boron, comprising  $SiO_2$ , a first metal oxide, and at least 10% by weight with respect to the glass composition of a second metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of  $Li_2O$  and  $TiO_2$ , and

a metal oxide which is different from the metal oxide present in the glass composition.

12. (previously added) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 11 wherein said first metal oxide is an oxide of an alkaline earth metal.

13. (previously added) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein said alkaline earth metal oxide is  $MgO$ .

14. (new) The composition according to claim 3 comprising greater than 10% to about

C<sub>2</sub> 25% Li<sub>2</sub>O by weight.